

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-06 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 CEQ-01 COA-01

COME-00 EB-04 EPA-01 NSF-01 OES-02 FEA-01 ACDA-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6834

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4491

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJ: SOVIET DRAFT RES ON ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION
(ENMOD)

REFS: (A) STATE 223020 (B) STATE 232482

1. AFTER OUTLINING TO SEVERAL ALLIED AND FRIENDLY DELS
OUR PLANS FOR SEEKING CHANGES IN SOVIET DRAFT ENMOD RES
(PER REFTEL A) AND RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM UK, CANADIAN,
JAPANESE, ITALIAN, AND WEST GERMAN DELS FOR THAT APPROACH,
US DEL TOOK EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY OCT. 28 TO MEET WITH SOVIET
DEL TO DISCUSS ITEM.

2. US DELOFF (GIVAN) INDICATED THAT, WHILE WE AGREE QUESTION
OF MILITARY USES OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES
WAS SUBJECT FOR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AND ALSO REGARD CCD
AS APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR CONSIDERATION OF THIS SUBJECT, WE
BELIEVE UNGA RES SHOULD NOT PREJUDGE SUBSTANTIVE OUTCOMES
OF FUTURE DELIBERATIONS. DRAWING ON PARA 3(D) OF REFTEL A,
GIVAN POINTED OUT WHERE SOVIET DRAFT SEEMED TO PREJUDGE
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FUTURE ENMOD DISCUSSIONS. HE ALSO SUGGESTED

MOVING OP PARA TWO, TO PREAMBLE AND "NOTING", RATHER THAN "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT", DRAFT CONVENTION SUBMITTED BY USSR. GIVAN STATED THAT WE WOULD BE APPROACHING SOVIET DEL AGAIN IN NEAR FUTURE TO RECOMMEND SPECIFIC TEXTUAL CHANGES AND THAT WE ALREADY HAD SUPPORT FROM SEVERAL FRIENDLY DELS FOR APPROACH OF MODIFYING RES. HE ALSO PROPOSED THAT FIRST COMITE VOTING ON ITEM BE DEFERRRED UNTIL END OF DISARMAMENT DEBATE, NOTING THAT US CONSIDERS IT IMPORATNT THAT BILATERAL US-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS PRECEDE UN ACTION.

3. IN REPLYING, SOV AMB. ROSHCIN AT FIRST SEEMED RESISTANT TO CHANGES. HE SAID INCLUSION OF REFERENCE TO "INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION" WOULD CREATE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION IN FIRST COMITE BECAUSE IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONCRETE RESULTS. HE CLAIMED THAT DRAFT RES NOW HAD CLOSE TO TWENTY CO-SPONSORS AND THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR HIM T PERSUADE CO-SPONSORS TO ACCEPT US CHANGES. HE THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT US AND OTHERS WHO SUPPORT US APPROACH PRESENT FORMULA AMENDMENTS ON FLOOR OF COMMITEE, INDICATING THAT, IN SUCH A SITUATION, SOVIET DEL MIGHT ABSTAIN, OR MIGHT EVEN SUPPORT AMENDMENTS. GIVAN SAID US WOULD PROBABLY SEE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH THIS PROCEDURE SINCE IT WOULD CONVEY IMPRESSION OF SUBSTANTIVE DIVISIONS AMONG KEY STATES WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY VOTE FOR RES.

4. LATER, HOWEVER, ROSHCIN INDICATED THAT HE DID NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF ACCOMMODATING WESTERN CONCERNS BEFORE MATTER REACHED FLOOR FOR VOTE. HE WAS INTERESTED IN RECEIVING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ANY SPECIFIC MODIFICATIONS WE WOULD CARE TO RECOMMEND. GIVAN OFFERED TO PROVIDE NEXT DAY SPECIFIC CHANGES THAT HAD BEEN WORKED OUT AT DELEGATION LEVEL, UT ROSHCIN EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE RESERVATION ABOUT REFERRING TO MOSCOW CHANGES THAT COULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED TENTATIVE. GIVAN AGREED TO SEEK WASHINGTON'S APPROVAL FOR SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS. ROSHCIN, IN CONCLUSION, AGREED TO POSTPONE VOTE ON ENMOD ITEM TO END OF DISARMAMENT DEBATE IF US DEL SO DESIRED.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE CLEARANCES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO PRESENT SOVIET DEL WITH CHANGES IN DRAFT ENMOD
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RES GIVEN BELOW. WHILE THESE CHANGES WOULD REPRESENT MORE THAN MINIMUM CALLED FOR IN REFTEL A, WE THINK WE SHOULD GO TO SOVS INITIALLY WITH MARGIN SOMEWHAT ABOVE MINIMUM US REQUIREMENTS. PROPOSED CHANGES ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT SUGGESTIONS BY FRIENDLY DELS. SPECIFICALLY, WE HAVE ADOPTED CANADIAN SUGGESTION THAT THIRD OPERATIVE PARA NOT REQUEST CCD TO CONSIDER "EFFECTIVE MEASURES ETC," AS US DEL HAD ORIGINALLY CONSIDERED, BUT TO CONSIDER "DANGERS---AND

EFFECTIVE MEASURES ETC." SWEDES STRONGLY URGED NEW
PREAMBULAR PARA "NOTING" THAT SOVS HAD SUBMITTED DRAFT
CONVENTION RATHER THAN PRESENT OPERATIVE PARA "TAKING INTO
ACCOUNT" SOV DRAFT CONVENTION.CANADIAN AND
SWEDISH SUGGESTIONS ARE INCORPORATED BELOW.

6. TEXT OF PROPOSED CHANGES FOLLOWS:

(A) REPLACE THIRD PREAMBULAR PARA WITH FOLLOWING:
RECOGNIZING THAT AMONG THESE POSSIBILITIES THE USE
OF ENVIRONMENT MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES FOR MILITARY
PURPOSES COULD HAVE WIDESPREAD, LONG-LASTING AND
SEVERE EFFECTS HARMFUL TO HUMAN WELFARE.

(B) ADD NEW PREAMBULAR PARA AS FOLLOWS: NOTING THAT A
DRAFT INTERNATIONAL "CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION
OF ACTION TO INFLUENCE THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE
FOR MILITARY AND OTHER PURPOSES INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, WELL-BEING AND
HEALTH" HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE GA BY
THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS,AND THAT
OTHER POINTS OF VIEW AND SUGGESTIONS WERE PUT FORWARD
DURING THE DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION.

(C) REPLACE FIRST OPERATIVE PARA WITH FOLLOWING: ADVOCATES
THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO OVERCOME THE DANGERS OF
THE USE OF ENVIRONMENT MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES FOR
MILITARY PURPOSES.

(D) DELETE SECOND OPERATIVE PARA.

(E) REPLACE PRESENT THIRD OPERATIVE PARA WITH FOLLOWING:
REQUESTS THE COMITE ON DISARMAMENT TO CONSIDER
THE DANGERS OF THE USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION
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TECHNIQUES FOR MILITARY PURPOSES AND EFFECTIVE MEASURES
TO OVERCOME THEM, AND TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE RESULTS
OF ITS CONSIDERATION TO THE GA AT ITS THIRTIETH SESSION.

(F) REPLACE FIFTH OPERATIVE PARA WITH FOLLOWING: DECIDES
TO INCLUDE IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF ITS 30TH SESSION
AN ITEM ENTITLED "MOST EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO OVERCOME
THE DANGERS OF THE USE OF ENVIRONMENT MODIFICATION
TECHNIQUES FOR MILITARY PURPOSES."

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